

KATHERINE GRAEF

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2005

Degree: University of Washington: B.S., Microbiology, 2005

Research Interests: Virology/Vaccine Development, Infectious Diseases other than

Virology, Molecular & Cellular Biology



Katherine Graef graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Washington with a B.S. degree in Microbiology with High Honors in 2005. Katherine received many awards including the Ordal Award for best undergraduate research thesis and the Evans Award for scholastic achievement from the University of Washington. She also won a research training grant from the Mary Gates Endowment. Her passion for a scientific research career stemmed from the book “The Hot Zone” the terrifying story of an Ebola virus outbreak. She therefore concentrated on human infectious diseases while at the University of Washington. Katherine carried out research with Dr. Lalita Ramakrishnan at the University of Washington investigating the pathogenesis of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MTB) and its effect on the host. She will now turn her attention to potential pandemic strains of Asian influenza for her doctoral work. Outside the lab, Katherine has been figure skating competitively since the 10th grade and won a Bronze medal in Ice Dancing. She has also served as an instructor for beginning skaters. Regarding to her future,” viruses and bacteria are a major cause of suffering and death in the world, and with many areas of the globe becoming populated and overcrowded, new, more virulent strains are arising. This calls for more research on the causes of the infections and novel strategies to prevent or cure infectious diseases. By doing this I hope to save lives and have a positive effect on the well being of people across the globe.”